

President of the organization in the State of Michigan, and one year later, Post member Fred McDaniel was elected to the position of commander in the State of Michigan. McDaniel would go on to coordinate the National Convention of the VFW, held in Detroit in 1960.

The Post continued to grow, and during the 1960's and 1970's expanded and remodeled its Home several times. With the added space, the Post became an important community institution, hosting baby showers, birthday, anniversary, and retirement parties, as well as funeral lunches.

Over the years, the Post has been an important fundraiser for the Roseville Police and Fire Departments, the Roseville Community Schools Scholarship Foundation and has been active in raising money for several other charities as well. The Post has been rewarded with numerous awards for Community Service, Americanism, and Youth Activities, demonstrating its involvement and commitment to the local community.

Today, the Post helps veterans in need of medical care and other assistance, and has been active in providing household goods to soldiers in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Corp. Neil W. Reid, Post 2358, and its Ladies Auxiliary on the occasion of their 70th anniversary. These organizations have been an important and active force in aiding local veterans as well as the community as a whole.

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IN TRIBUTE TO ROBERT B.  
WEGMAN

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor Robert B. Wegman, chairman of Wegmans Food Markets, Inc., who died on April 20, 2006, at the age of 87. Mr. Wegman was surrounded by his family, as he passed away peacefully in his hometown of Rochester, NY.

Mr. Wegman made his mark as a pioneer in the supermarket industry, transforming the conventional grocery store into a superstore, emulated by others across the country. Mr. Wegman's passion for business began as a child, when he worked in the family store operated from the front of his grandmother's home. He developed a philosophy that has served as the foundation for the company. He believed: "I am a merchant and I have, therefore, my own philosophy about merchandising. That is: To do something that no one else is doing, and to be able to offer the customer a choice that she doesn't have at the moment." Mr. Wegman embodied the American entrepreneurial spirit from the start, and proved to be one of the most successful businessmen in the grocery store industry.

From the beginning, Mr. Wegman made it his goal to make Wegmans supermarkets the finest chain in the country—he was not concerned if it was the fastest growing, but more with growth itself. In 1930, Mr. Wegman and his brother received national attention with the opening of their innovative grocery store. The 20,000-square-foot store was unlike anything

seen before—it featured modern techniques for keeping produce fresh with vaporized water spray and refrigerated food displays. Over the next 56 years, Mr. Wegman transformed his store with the concept of one-stop-shopping. He imported fine cheeses, and wine, ethnic foods, and introduced patisseries and prepared foods into the grocery stores. In the 20th century, Wegman integrated pharmacies, photo labs and video departments into his stores, propelling the model for customer convenience to its highest levels.

Wegmans Food Markets has expanded to now over 70 stores, and the company is now as well known for its corporate responsibility as it is for exceptional customer service. Wegmans Food Markets has been named one of 'The Top 100 Companies to Work For' by Fortune magazine several years in a row, and in 2005 was ranked #1 as the best company to work for in the nation. Fortune's annual ranking of companies is determined by the number of employees and is measured by benefits, job growth, pay, percentage of minorities and women, and turnover. For example, Wegmans provides a scholarship program which has given close to \$60 million in tuition assistance to its employees. Although the superstore helped to shape the Rochester community, Robert Wegman has crafted his company into one that serves as a national model, both for its corporate success and for the opportunities and environment he has provided for his employees.

Mr. Wegman is also highly admired for his philanthropy. In 1995, he and his wife, Peggy, announced a 10-year, \$25 million gift in support of Catholic education, allowing hundreds of families to choose Catholic education in the Rochester-area community. Mr. Wegman also made considerable contributions to Aquinas Institute high school, giving \$10 million to the school for new athletic facilities and a fine arts center. In 1997, Wegmans Food Markets became the title sponsor of the Wegmans Rochester LPGA (Ladies Professional Golf Association); with proceeds supporting camps for disabled children. Most recently, Mr. Wegman contributed a combined \$13 million to St. John Fisher College, which will be used for the establishment of the Wegmans School of Pharmacy and the Wegmans School of Nursing.

Mr. Wegman's pursuit of excellence is portrayed in every aspect of his life: family, community, and corporate responsibility. He will be remembered as a pioneer and leader of his industry and for his extraordinary compassion and generosity.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Robert Wegman.

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CONGRATULATING LIEUTENANT  
COLONEL THEO F. MIDDLETON,  
JR., ON RECEIVING THE LEGION  
OF MERIT AWARD

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Theo F. Middleton, Jr. on receiving the Legion of Merit Award.

The Legion of Merit Award is a military decoration of the United States armed forces, which is awarded for exceptionally meritorious

conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements. We congratulate Colonel Middleton on being awarded this medal.

Colonel Middleton is a native of Mobile, who attended UMS Preparatory School and completed the ROTC training program at Marion Military Institute. After graduating from Louisiana State University, Colonel Middleton was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. His initial assignment was to the Korean Demilitarized Zone as Rifle Platoon Leader. Following training as an Army helicopter pilot, Colonel Middleton was assigned as an Aero-Scout Platoon Leader. He is a founding member of Task Force 158, which is the U.S. Army's first long range, night vision capable special operations helicopter unit. He presently serves as the congressional district commander for Alabama's First Congressional District.

Colonel Middleton's other awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Commendation Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, and Master Army Aviator wings.

Colonel Middleton served as past president of the Mobile County Wildlife Conservation Association, as well as the Greater Mobile Area LSU Alumni Association. He is an investment advisor with the Wealth Management Group of Regions/Morgan Keegan in Mobile.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Colonel Ted Middleton on receiving his award. I acknowledge his invaluable work and significant contribution to not only the state Alabama but our Nation as well.

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IN HONOR OF OFFICER SKERSKI  
AND PEACE OFFICERS MEMO-  
RIAL DAY AND POLICE WEEK

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for five minutes and to revise and extend my remarks.

This past Friday, I attended the funeral of Philadelphia Police Officer Gary Skerski. I saw the pain of his wife Anne, 13-year old son Robert, and 10-year old daughter Nicole—a pain that may dull with time, but will never go away.

They lost a husband and a father. And Philadelphia lost one of its finest.

Officer Skerski was a community relations officer, and a 16-year veteran of the force. And, on May 8th at 10 pm, Officer Gary Skerski was murdered in the line of duty.

Gary was working overtime when he and his partner responded to a robbery call. He entered a neighborhood watering hole to stop a gunman who was terrorizing patrons and staff. Gary was shot in the neck by a cold-blooded killer who has no regard for the law and no regard for life. Gary never even had a chance to draw his gun.

Officer Skerski worked to protect the families, homes, and businesses of Northeast Philadelphia. He interacted with my staff often, and I had the pleasure of meeting Gary at a community meeting just this past winter.